

Official Form 1 (10/06)

<b>United States Bankruptcy Court</b> <b>Northern District of Illinois</b>						<b>Voluntary Petition</b>																					
Name of Debtor (if individual, enter Last, First, Middle): <b>Lawhorn, Stephen</b>				Name of Joint Debtor (Spouse) (Last, First, Middle):																							
All Other Names used by the Debtor in the last 8 years (include married, maiden, and trade names):				All Other Names used by the Joint Debtor in the last 8 years (include married, maiden, and trade names):																							
Last four digits of Soc. Sec./Complete EIN or other Tax ID No. (if more than one, state all): <b>xxx-xx-3878</b>				Last four digits of Soc. Sec./Complete EIN or other Tax ID No. (if more than one, state all):																							
Street Address of Debtor (No. and Street, City, and State): <b>6124 S. Campbell Chicago, IL</b>				Street Address of Joint Debtor (No. and Street, City, and State):																							
ZIP Code <b>60629</b>				ZIP Code																							
County of Residence or of the Principal Place of Business: <b>Cook</b>				County of Residence or of the Principal Place of Business:																							
Mailing Address of Debtor (if different from street address):				Mailing Address of Joint Debtor (if different from street address):																							
ZIP Code				ZIP Code																							
Location of Principal Assets of Business Debtor (if different from street address above):																											
<b>Type of Debtor</b> (Form of Organization) (Check one box)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual (includes Joint Debtors) <i>See Exhibit D on page 2 of this form.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation (includes LLC and LLP) <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Other (If debtor is not one of the above entities, check this box and state type of entity below.)		<b>Nature of Business</b> (Check one box)  <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Business <input type="checkbox"/> Single Asset Real Estate as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101 (51B) <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbroker <input type="checkbox"/> Commodity Broker <input type="checkbox"/> Clearing Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Other <hr/> <b>Tax-Exempt Entity</b> (Check box, if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Debtor is a tax-exempt organization under Title 26 of the United States Code (the Internal Revenue Code).		<b>Chapter of Bankruptcy Code Under Which the Petition is Filed</b> (Check one box)  <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 12 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 13  <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 15 Petition for Recognition of a Foreign Main Proceeding <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 15 Petition for Recognition of a Foreign Nonmain Proceeding <hr/> <b>Nature of Debts</b> (Check one box)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debts are primarily consumer debts, defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose." <input type="checkbox"/> Debts are primarily business debts.																							
<b>Filing Fee</b> (Check one box)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Filing Fee attached <input type="checkbox"/> Filing Fee to be paid in installments (applicable to individuals only). Must attach signed application for the court's consideration certifying that the debtor is unable to pay fee except in installments. Rule 1006(b). See Official Form 3A. <input type="checkbox"/> Filing Fee waiver requested (applicable to chapter 7 individuals only). Must attach signed application for the court's consideration. See Official Form 3B.				<b>Chapter 11 Debtors</b> Check one box: <input type="checkbox"/> Debtor is a small business debtor as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D). <input type="checkbox"/> Debtor is not a small business debtor as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D). Check if: <input type="checkbox"/> Debtor's aggregate noncontingent liquidated debts (excluding debts owed to insiders or affiliates) are less than \$2 million. <hr/> Check all applicable boxes: <input type="checkbox"/> A plan is being filed with this petition. <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptances of the plan were solicited prepetition from one or more classes of creditors, in accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 1126(b).																							
<b>Statistical/Administrative Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debtor estimates that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors. <input type="checkbox"/> Debtor estimates that, after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses paid, there will be no funds available for distribution to unsecured creditors.						THIS SPACE IS FOR COURT USE ONLY																					
<b>Estimated Number of Creditors</b> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>1-49</td> <td>50-99</td> <td>100-199</td> <td>200-999</td> <td>1000-5,000</td> <td>5001-10,000</td> <td>10,001-25,000</td> <td>25,001-50,000</td> <td>100,001-100,000</td> <td>OVER 100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>								1-49	50-99	100-199	200-999	1000-5,000	5001-10,000	10,001-25,000	25,001-50,000	100,001-100,000	OVER 100,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1-49	50-99	100-199	200-999	1000-5,000	5001-10,000			10,001-25,000	25,001-50,000	100,001-100,000	OVER 100,000																
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																
<b>Estimated Assets</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 to \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,001 to \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 to \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 to \$100 million <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$100 million																											
<b>Estimated Liabilities</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$0 to \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 to \$100,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 to \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 to \$100 million <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$100 million																											

**Voluntary Petition**

(This page must be completed and filed in every case)

Name of Debtor(s):

**Lawhorn, Stephen****All Prior Bankruptcy Cases Filed Within Last 8 Years** (If more than two, attach additional sheet)

Location

Where Filed: **- None -**

Case Number:

Date Filed:

Location

Where Filed:

Case Number:

Date Filed:

**Pending Bankruptcy Case Filed by any Spouse, Partner, or Affiliate of this Debtor** (If more than one, attach additional sheet)

Name of Debtor:

Case Number:

Date Filed:

**- None -**

District:

Relationship:

Judge:

**Exhibit A**

(To be completed if debtor is required to file periodic reports (e.g., forms 10K and 10Q) with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is requesting relief under chapter 11.)

☐ Exhibit A is attached and made a part of this petition.**Exhibit B**

(To be completed if debtor is an individual whose debts are primarily consumer debts.)

I, the attorney for the petitioner named in the foregoing petition, declare that I have informed the petitioner that [he or she] may proceed under chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each such chapter. I further certify that I delivered to the debtor the notice required by 11 U.S.C. §342(b).

**X /s/ Bennie W. Fernandez****March 8, 2007**

Signature of Attorney for Debtor(s)

(Date)

**Bennie W. Fernandez****Exhibit C**

Does the debtor own or have possession of any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable harm to public health or safety?

☐ Yes, and Exhibit C is attached and made a part of this petition.☒ No.**Exhibit D**

(To be completed by every individual debtor. If a joint petition is filed, each spouse must complete and attach a separate Exhibit D.)

☒ Exhibit D completed and signed by the debtor is attached and made a part of this petition.

If this is a joint petition:

☐ Exhibit D also completed and signed by the joint debtor is attached and made a part of this petition.**Information Regarding the Debtor - Venue**

(Check any applicable box)

- ☒ Debtor has been domiciled or has had a residence, principal place of business, or principal assets in this District for 180 days immediately preceding the date of this petition or for a longer part of such 180 days than in any other District.
- ☐ There is a bankruptcy case concerning debtor's affiliate, general partner, or partnership pending in this District.
- ☐ Debtor is a debtor in a foreign proceeding and has its principal place of business or principal assets in the United States in this District, or has no principal place of business or assets in the United States but is a defendant in an action or proceeding [in a federal or state court] in this District, or the interests of the parties will be served in regard to the relief sought in this District.

**Statement by a Debtor Who Resides as a Tenant of Residential Property**

(Check all applicable boxes)

- ☐
- Landlord has a judgment against the debtor for possession of debtor's residence. (If box checked, complete the following.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of landlord that obtained judgment)\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of landlord)

- ☐ Debtor claims that under applicable nonbankruptcy law, there are circumstances under which the debtor would be permitted to cure the entire monetary default that gave rise to the judgment for possession, after the judgment for possession was entered, and
- ☐ Debtor has included in this petition the deposit with the court of any rent that would become due during the 30-day period after the filing of the petition.

# Voluntary Petition

(This page must be completed and filed in every case)

Name of Debtor(s):  
**Lawhorn, Stephen**

## Signatures

### Signature(s) of Debtor(s) (Individual/Joint)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this petition is true and correct.  
[If petitioner is an individual whose debts are primarily consumer debts and has chosen to file under chapter 7] I am aware that I may proceed under chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, understand the relief available under each such chapter, and choose to proceed under chapter 7.  
[If no attorney represents me and no bankruptcy petition preparer signs the petition] I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. §342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

**X** /s/ Stephen Lawhorn  
Signature of Debtor **Stephen Lawhorn**

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Joint Debtor

Telephone Number (If not represented by attorney)

March 8, 2007  
Date

### Signature of Attorney

**X** /s/ Bennie W. Fernandez  
Signature of Attorney for Debtor(s)

Bennie W. Fernandez  
Printed Name of Attorney for Debtor(s)

The Law Office of Bennie W. Fernandez  
Firm Name

**108 W. Madison**  
**Oak Park, IL 60302**

Address

**Email: Bennie161@sbcglobal.net**  
**(708) 386-1812 Fax: (708) 386-2014**

Telephone Number

March 8, 2007  
Date

### Signature of Debtor (Corporation/Partnership)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this petition is true and correct, and that I have been authorized to file this petition on behalf of the debtor.

The debtor requests relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Individual

Printed Name of Authorized Individual

Title of Authorized Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

### Signature of a Foreign Representative

I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this petition is true and correct, that I am the foreign representative of a debtor in a foreign proceeding, and that I am authorized to file this petition.

(Check only one box.)

☐ I request relief in accordance with chapter 15 of title 11, United States Code. Certified copies of the documents required by 11 U.S.C. §1515 are attached.

☐ Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §1511, I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11 specified in this petition. A certified copy of the order granting recognition of the foreign main proceeding is attached.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Foreign Representative

Printed Name of Foreign Representative

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

### Signature of Non-Attorney Bankruptcy Petition Preparer

I declare under penalty of perjury that: (1) I am a bankruptcy petition preparer as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 110; (2) I prepared this document for compensation and have provided the debtor with a copy of this document and the notices and information required under 11 U.S.C. §§ 110(b), 110(h), and 342(b); and, (3) if rules or guidelines have been promulgated pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 110(h) setting a maximum fee for services chargeable by bankruptcy petition preparers, I have given the debtor notice of the maximum amount before preparing any document for filing for a debtor or accepting any fee from the debtor, as required in that section. Official Form 19B is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name and title, if any, of Bankruptcy Petition Preparer

\_\_\_\_\_ Social Security number (If the bankruptcy petition preparer is not an individual, state the Social Security number of the officer, principal, responsible person or partner of the bankruptcy petition preparer.) (Required by 11 U.S.C. § 110.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Signature of Bankruptcy Petition Preparer or officer, principal, responsible person, or partner whose Social Security number is provided above.

Names and Social Security numbers of all other individuals who prepared or assisted in preparing this document unless the bankruptcy petition preparer is not an individual:

If more than one person prepared this document, attach additional sheets conforming to the appropriate official form for each person.

*A bankruptcy petition preparer's failure to comply with the provisions of title 11 and the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure may result in fines or imprisonment or both 11 U.S.C. §110; 18 U.S.C. §156.*

Official Form 1, Exhibit D (10/06)

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Northern District of Illinois**

In re Stephen Lawhorn

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter

13

**EXHIBIT D - INDIVIDUAL DEBTOR'S STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH  
CREDIT COUNSELING REQUIREMENT**

**Warning: You must be able to check truthfully one of the five statements regarding credit counseling listed below. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file a bankruptcy case, and the court can dismiss any case you do file. If that happens, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors will be able to resume collection activities against you. If your case is dismissed and you file another bankruptcy case later, you may be required to pay a second filing fee and you may have to take extra steps to stop creditors' collection activities.**

*Every individual debtor must file this Exhibit D. If a joint petition is filed, each spouse must complete and file a separate Exhibit D. Check one of the five statements below and attach any documents as directed.*

☐ 1. Within the 180 days **before the filing of my bankruptcy case**, I received a briefing from a credit counseling agency approved by the United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator that outlined the opportunities for available credit counseling and assisted me in performing a related budget analysis, and I have a certificate from the agency describing the services provided to me. *Attach a copy of the certificate and a copy of any debt repayment plan developed through the agency.*

☒ 2. Within the 180 days **before the filing of my bankruptcy case**, I received a briefing from a credit counseling agency approved by the United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator that outlined the opportunities for available credit counseling and assisted me in performing a related budget analysis, but I do not have a certificate from the agency describing the services provided to me. *You must file a copy of a certificate from the agency describing the services provided to you and a copy of any debt repayment plan developed through the agency no later than 15 days after your bankruptcy case is filed.*

☐ 3. I certify that I requested credit counseling services from an approved agency but was unable to obtain the services during the five days from the time I made my request, and the following exigent circumstances merit a temporary waiver of the credit counseling requirement so I can file my bankruptcy case now. *[Must be accompanied by a motion for determination by the court.][Summarize exigent circumstances here.]* \_\_\_\_\_

**If the court is satisfied with the reasons stated in your motion, it will send you an order approving your request. You must still obtain the credit counseling briefing within the first 30 days after you file your bankruptcy case and promptly file a certificate from the agency that provided the briefing, together with a copy of any debt management plan developed through the agency. Any extension of the 30-day deadline can be granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days. A motion for extension must be filed within the 30-day period. Failure to fulfill these requirements may result in dismissal of your case. If the court is not satisfied with your reasons for filing your bankruptcy case without first receiving a credit counseling briefing, your case may be dismissed.**

**Official Form 1, Exh. D (10/06) - Cont.**

☐ 4. I am not required to receive a credit counseling briefing because of: *[Check the applicable statement.] [Must be accompanied by a motion for determination by the court.]*

☐ Incapacity. (Defined in 11 U.S.C. § 109(h)(4) as impaired by reason of mental illness or mental deficiency so as to be incapable of realizing and making rational decisions with respect to financial responsibilities.);

☐ Disability. (Defined in 11 U.S.C. § 109(h)(4) as physically impaired to the extent of being unable, after reasonable effort, to participate in a credit counseling briefing in person, by telephone, or through the Internet.);

☐ Active military duty in a military combat zone.

☐ 5. The United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator has determined that the credit counseling requirement of 11 U.S.C. § 109(h) does not apply in this district.

**I certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided above is true and correct.**

Signature of Debtor: /s/ Stephen Lawhorn  
Stephen Lawhorn

Date: March 8, 2007

In re **Stephen Lawhorn**, Debtor Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHEDULE D. CREDITORS HOLDING SECURED CLAIMS

State the name, mailing address, including zip code, and last four digits of any account number of all entities holding claims secured by property of the debtor as of the date of filing of the petition. The complete account number of any account the debtor has with the creditor is useful to the trustee and the creditor and may be provided if the debtor chooses to do so. List creditors holding all types of secured interests such as judgment liens, garnishments, statutory liens, mortgages, deeds of trust, and other security interests.

List creditors in alphabetical order to the extent practicable. If a minor child is a creditor, indicate that by stating "a minor child" and do not disclose the child's name. See 11 U.S.C. § 112. If "a minor child" is stated, also include the name, address, and legal relationship to the minor child of a person described in Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1007(m). If all secured creditors will not fit on this page, use the continuation sheet provided.

If any entity other than a spouse in a joint case may be jointly liable on a claim, place an "X" in the column labeled "Codebtor", include the entity on the appropriate schedule of creditors, and complete Schedule H - Codebtors. If a joint petition is filed, state whether the husband, wife, both of them, or the marital community may be liable on each claim by placing an "H", "W", "J", or "C" in the column labeled "Husband, Wife, Joint, or Community".

If the claim is contingent, place an "X" in the column labeled "Contingent". If the claim is unliquidated, place an "X" in the column labeled "Unliquidated". If the claim is disputed, place an "X" in the column labeled "Disputed". (You may need to place an "X" in more than one of these three columns.)

Total the columns labeled "Amount of Claim Without Deducting Value of Collateral" and "Unsecured Portion, if Any" in the boxes labeled "Total(s)" on the last sheet of the completed schedule. Report the total from the column labeled "Amount of Claim" also on the Summary of Schedules and, if the debtor is an individual with primarily consumer debts, report the total from the column labeled "Unsecured Portion" on the Statistical Summary of Certain Liabilities and Related Data.

☐ Check this box if debtor has no creditors holding secured claims to report on this Schedule D.

CREDITOR'S NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS INCLUDING ZIP CODE, AND ACCOUNT NUMBER (See instructions above.)	C O D E B T O R	H U S B A N D W I F E J O I N T C O M M U N I T Y	DATE CLAIM WAS INCURRED, NATURE OF LIEN, AND DESCRIPTION AND VALUE OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO LIEN	C O N T I N G E N T	U N L I Q U I D A T E D	D I S P U T E D	AMOUNT OF CLAIM WITHOUT DEDUCTING VALUE OF COLLATERAL	UNSECURED PORTION, IF ANY
Account No. <b>1020010196435</b>			<b>Opened 4/12/05 Last Active 11/27/06</b>					
<b>Peoples Choice Home Lo</b>			<b>ConventionalRealEstateMortgage</b>					
<b>7515 Irvine Center Dr</b>		-						
<b>Irvine, CA 92618</b>			Value \$ <b>Unknown</b>				<b>213,044.00</b>	<b>213,044.00</b>
Account No.								
			Value \$					
Account No.								
			Value \$					
Account No.								
			Value \$					
Subtotal (Total of this page)							<b>213,044.00</b>	<b>213,044.00</b>
Total (Report on Summary of Schedules)							<b>213,044.00</b>	<b>213,044.00</b>

0 continuation sheets attached

**United States Bankruptcy Court**  
**Northern District of Illinois**

In re **Stephen Lawhorn**

Debtor(s)

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter

**13**

**DECLARATION CONCERNING DEBTOR'S SCHEDULES**

**DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY BY INDIVIDUAL DEBTOR**

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read the foregoing summary and schedules, consisting of **16** sheets *[total shown on summary page plus 2]*, and that they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Date **March 8, 2007**

Signature **/s/ Stephen Lawhorn**

**Stephen Lawhorn**

Debtor

*Penalty for making a false statement or concealing property:* Fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years or both.  
18 U.S.C. §§ 152 and 3571.

**United States Bankruptcy Court**  
**Northern District of Illinois**

In re Stephen Lawhorn

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter 13

**DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR(S)**

1. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 329(a) and Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b), I certify that I am the attorney for the above-named debtor and that compensation paid to me within one year before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy, or agreed to be paid to me, for services rendered or to be rendered on behalf of the debtor(s) in contemplation of or in connection with the bankruptcy case is as follows:

For legal services, I have agreed to accept.....	\$	<u>3,000.00</u>
Prior to the filing of this statement I have received.....	\$	<u>576.00</u>
Balance Due.....	\$	<u>2,424.00</u>

2. \$ 274.00 of the filing fee has been paid.

3. The source of the compensation paid to me was:

☒ Debtor      ☐ Other (specify):

4. The source of compensation to be paid to me is:

☒ Debtor      ☐ Other (specify):

5. ☒ I have not agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with any other person unless they are members and associates of my law firm.

☐ I have agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with a person or persons who are not members or associates of my law firm. A copy of the agreement, together with a list of the names of the people sharing in the compensation is attached.

6. In return for the above-disclosed fee, I have agreed to render legal service for all aspects of the bankruptcy case, including:
- Analysis of the debtor's financial situation, and rendering advice to the debtor in determining whether to file a petition in bankruptcy;
  - Preparation and filing of any petition, schedules, statement of affairs and plan which may be required;
  - Representation of the debtor at the meeting of creditors and confirmation hearing, and any adjourned hearings thereof;
  - [Other provisions as needed]

**Negotiations with secured creditors to reduce to market value; exemption planning; preparation and filing of reaffirmation agreements and applications as needed; preparation and filing of motions pursuant to 11 USC 522(f)(2)(A) for avoidance of liens on household goods.**

7. By agreement with the debtor(s), the above-disclosed fee does not include the following service:

**Representation of the debtors in any dischargeability actions, judicial lien avoidances, relief from stay actions or any other adversary proceeding.**

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the foregoing is a complete statement of any agreement or arrangement for payment to me for representation of the debtor(s) in this bankruptcy proceeding.

Dated: March 8, 2007

/s/ Bennie W. Fernandez

**Bennie W. Fernandez**

**The Law Office of Bennie W. Fernandez**

**108 W. Madison**

**Oak Park, IL 60302**

**(708) 386-1812 Fax: (708) 386-2014**

**Bennie161@sbcglobal.net**



**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
CHAPTER 13 DEBTORS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS  
(Model Retention Agreement)**

Chapter 13 gives debtors important rights, such as the right to keep property that could otherwise be lost through repossession or foreclosure—but Chapter 13 also puts burdens on debtors, such as the burden of making complete and truthful disclosures of their financial situation. It is important for debtors who file a Chapter 13 bankruptcy case to understand their rights and responsibilities in bankruptcy. In this connection, the advice of an attorney is often crucial. Debtors are entitled to expect certain services to be performed by their attorneys, but again, debtors have responsibilities to their attorneys also. In order to assure that debtors and their attorneys understand their rights and responsibilities in the Chapter 13 process, the judges of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois have approved the following agreement, setting out the rights and responsibilities of both debtors in Chapter 13 and their attorneys. By signing this agreement, debtors and their attorneys accept these responsibilities.

***BEFORE THE CASE IS FILED***

**THE DEBTOR AGREES TO:**

1. Discuss with the attorney the debtor's objectives in filing the case.
2. Provide the attorney with full, accurate and timely information, financial and otherwise, including properly documented proof of income.

**THE ATTORNEY AGREES TO:**

1. Personally counsel the debtor regarding the advisability of filing either a Chapter 13 or a Chapter 7 case, discuss both procedures (as well as non-bankruptcy options) with the debtor, and answer the debtor's questions.
2. Personally explain to the debtor that the attorney is being engaged to represent the debtor on all matters arising in the case, as required by Local Bankruptcy rule and explain how and when the attorney's fees and the trustee's fees are determined and paid.
3. Personally review with the debtor and sign the completed petition, plan, statements, and schedules, as well as all amendments thereto, whether filed with the petition or later. (The schedules may be initially prepared with the help of clerical or paralegal staff of the attorney's office, but personal attention of the attorney is required for the review and signing.)

4. Timely prepare and file the debtor's petition, plan, statements, and schedules.
5. Explain to the debtor how, when, and where to make all necessary payments, including both payments that must be made directly to creditors and payments that must be made to the Chapter 13 trustee, with particular attention to housing and vehicle payments.
6. Advise the debtor of the need to maintain appropriate insurance.

***AFTER THE CASE IS FILED***

**THE DEBTOR AGREES TO:**

1. Make the required payments to the trustee and to whatever creditors are being paid directly, or, if required payments cannot be made, to notify the attorney immediately.
2. Appear punctually at the meeting of creditors (also called the "341 meeting") with recent proof of income and a picture identification card. (If the identification card does not include the debtor's social security number, the debtor will also bring to the meeting a social security card.) The debtor must be present in time for check-in and when the case is called for the actual examination.
3. Notify the attorney of any change in the debtor's address or telephone number.
4. Inform the attorney of any wage garnishments or liens or levies on assets that occur or continue after the filing of the case.
5. Contact the attorney immediately if the debtor loses employment, has a significant change in income, or experiences any other significant change in financial situation (such as serious illness, lottery winnings, or an inheritance).
6. Notify the attorney if the debtor is sued or wishes to file a lawsuit (including divorce).
7. Inform the attorney if any tax refunds to which the debtor is entitled are seized or not received when due from the IRS or Illinois Department of Revenue.
8. Contact the attorney before buying, refinancing, or selling real property, and before entering into any loan agreement.

**THE ATTORNEY AGREES TO:**

1. Advise the debtor of the requirement to attend the meeting of creditors, and notify the debtor of the date, time, and place of the meeting.
2. Inform the debtor that the debtor must be punctual and, in the case of a joint filing, that both spouses must appear at the same meeting.

3. Provide knowledgeable legal representation for the debtor at the meeting of creditors (in time for check-in and the actual examination) and, unless excused by the trustee, for the confirmation hearing.
4. If the attorney will be employing another attorney to attend the 341 meeting or any court hearing, personally explain to the debtor in advance, the role and identity of the other attorney and provide the other attorney with the file in sufficient time to review it and properly represent the debtor.
5. Timely submit to the Chapter 13 trustee properly documented proof of income for the debtor, including business reports for self-employed debtors.
6. Timely respond to objections to plan confirmation and, where necessary, prepare, file, and serve an amended plan.
7. Timely prepare, file, and serve any necessary amended statements and schedules and any change of address, in accordance with information provided by the debtor.
8. Monitor all incoming case information (including, but not limited to, Order Confirming Plan, Notice of Intent to Pay Claims, and 6-month status reports) for accuracy and completeness. Contact the trustee promptly regarding any discrepancies.
9. Be available to respond to the debtor's questions throughout the term of the plan.
10. Prepare, file, and serve timely modifications to the plan after confirmation, when necessary, including modifications to suspend, lower, or increase plan payments.
11. Prepare, file, and serve necessary motions to buy or sell property and to incur debt.
12. Object to improper or invalid claims.
13. Timely respond to the Chapter 13 trustee's motions to dismiss the case, such as for payment default, or unfeasibility, and to motions to increase the percentage payment to unsecured creditors.
14. Timely respond to motions for relief from stay.
15. Prepare, file, and serve all appropriate motions to avoid liens.
16. Provide any other legal services necessary for the administration of the case before the bankruptcy court.

ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES [Check one option.]

☐ Option A: flat fee through confirmation

1a. *Pre-confirmation services.* Any attorney retained to represent a debtor in a Chapter 13 case is responsible for representing the debtor on all matters arising in the case, unless otherwise ordered by the court. For all of the services outlined above, required to be provided before confirmation of a plan, the attorney will be paid a fee of \$ N/A. In extraordinary circumstances, such as extended evidentiary hearings or appeals, the attorney may apply to the court for additional compensation for pre-confirmation services. Any such application must be accompanied by an itemization of the services rendered, showing the date, the time expended, and the identity of the attorney performing the services. The debtor must be served with a copy of the application and notified of the right to appear in court to object.

1b. *Post-confirmation services.* Compensation for services required after confirmation will be in such amounts as are allowed by the court, on application accompanied by an itemization of the services rendered, showing the date, time, and the identity of the attorney performing the services. The debtor must be served with a copy of the application and notified that the debtor may appear in court to object.

2. *Early termination of the case.* Fees payable under the provisions set out above are not refundable in the event that the case is dismissed before confirmation (Option A) or completion of plan payments (Option B), unless the dismissal is due to a failure by the attorney to comply with the duties set out in this agreement. If a dismissal is due to such a failure by the attorney, the court may order a refund of fees on motion by the debtor.

3. *Retainers.* The attorney may receive a retainer or other payment before filing the case, but may not receive fees directly from the debtor after the filing of the case. In any application for fees, whether or not requiring an itemization, the attorney shall disclose to the court any fees paid by the debtor prior to the case filing.

☒ Option B: flat fee through case closing

1. Any attorney retained to represent a debtor in a Chapter 13 case is responsible for representing the debtor on all matters arising in the case unless otherwise ordered by the court. For all of the services outlined above, the attorney will be paid a fee of \$ 3,000.00. In extraordinary circumstances, such as extended evidentiary hearings or appeals, the attorney may apply to the court for additional compensation for these services. Any such application must be accompanied by an itemization of the services rendered, showing the date, the time expended, and the identity of the attorney performing the services. The debtor must be served with a copy of the application and notified of the right to appear in court to object.

4. *Improper conduct by the attorney.* If the debtor disputes the sufficiency or quality of the legal services provided or the amount of the fees charged by the attorney, the debtor may file an objection with the court and request a hearing.

5. *Improper conduct by the debtor.* If the attorney believes that the debtor is not complying with the debtor's responsibilities under this agreement or is otherwise not engaging in proper conduct, the attorney may apply for a court order allowing the attorney to withdraw from the case.

6. *Discharge of the attorney.* The debtor may discharge the attorney at any time.

Date:

March 8, 2007

**Total fee to be paid for attorney's services: \$ 3,000.00**  
**(Do not sign if this line is blank.)**

Signed:

/s/ Stephen Lawhorn

Stephen Lawhorn

/s/ Bennie W. Fernandez

Bennie W. Fernandez

Attorney for Debtor(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debtor(s)

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

**NOTICE TO INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER DEBTOR UNDER § 342(b)  
OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE**

In accordance with § 342(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, this notice: (1) Describes briefly the services available from credit counseling services; (2) Describes briefly the purposes, benefits and costs of the four types of bankruptcy proceedings you may commence; and (3) Informs you about bankruptcy crimes and notifies you that the Attorney General may examine all information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case. You are cautioned that bankruptcy law is complicated and not easily described. Thus, you may wish to seek the advice of an attorney to learn of your rights and responsibilities should you decide to file a petition. Court employees cannot give you legal advice.

**1. Services Available from Credit Counseling Agencies**

**With limited exceptions, § 109(h) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that all individual debtors who file for bankruptcy relief on or after October 17, 2005, receive a briefing that outlines the available opportunities for credit counseling and provides assistance in performing a budget analysis.** The briefing must be given within 180 days **before** the bankruptcy filing. The briefing may be provided individually or in a group (including briefings conducted by telephone or on the Internet) and must be provided by a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency approved by the United States trustee or bankruptcy administrator. The clerk of the bankruptcy court has a list that you may consult of the approved budget and credit counseling agencies.

**In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, an individual debtor generally must complete a financial management instructional course before he or she can receive a discharge.** The clerk also has a list of approved financial management instructional courses.

**2. The Four Chapters of the Bankruptcy Code Available to Individual Consumer Debtors**

**Chapter 7: Liquidation (\$245 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee, \$15 trustee surcharge: Total Fee \$299)**

1. Chapter 7 is designed for debtors in financial difficulty who do not have the ability to pay their existing debts. Debtors whose debts are primarily consumer debts are subject to a "means test" designed to determine whether the case should be permitted to proceed under chapter 7. If your income is greater than the median income for your state of residence and family size, in some cases, creditors have the right to file a motion requesting that the court dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Code. It is up to the court to decide whether the case should be dismissed.

2. Under chapter 7, you may claim certain of your property as exempt under governing law. A trustee may have the right to take possession of and sell the remaining property that is not exempt and use the sale proceeds to pay your creditors.

3. The purpose of filing a chapter 7 case is to obtain a discharge of your existing debts. If, however, you are found to have committed certain kinds of improper conduct described in the Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your discharge and, if it does, the purpose for which you filed the bankruptcy petition will be defeated.

4. Even if you receive a general discharge, some particular debts are not discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still be responsible for most taxes and student loans; debts incurred to pay nondischargeable taxes; domestic support and property settlement obligations; most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; certain debts which are not properly listed in your bankruptcy papers; and debts for death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs. Also, if a creditor can prove that a debt arose from fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, or theft, or from a willful and malicious injury, the bankruptcy court may determine that the debt is not discharged.

**Chapter 13: Repayment of All or Part of the Debts of an Individual with Regular Income (\$235 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$274)**

1. Chapter 13 is designed for individuals with regular income who would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments over a period of time. You are only eligible for chapter 13 if your debts do not exceed certain dollar amounts set forth in the Bankruptcy Code.

2. Under chapter 13, you must file with the court a plan to repay your creditors all or part of the money that you owe them, using your future earnings. The period allowed by the court to repay your debts may be three years or five years, depending upon your income and other factors. The court must approve your plan before it can take effect.

3. After completing the payments under your plan, your debts are generally discharged except for domestic support obligations; most student loans; certain taxes; most criminal fines and restitution obligations; certain debts which are not properly listed in your bankruptcy papers; certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury; and certain long term secured

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obligations.

**Chapter 11: Reorganization (\$1000 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$1039)**

Chapter 11 is designed for the reorganization of a business but is also available to consumer debtors. Its provisions are quite complicated, and any decision by an individual to file a chapter 11 petition should be reviewed with an attorney.

**Chapter 12: Family Farmer or Fisherman (\$200 filing fee, \$39 administrative fee: Total fee \$239)**

Chapter 12 is designed to permit family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time from future earnings and is similar to chapter 13. The eligibility requirements are restrictive, limiting its use to those whose income arises primarily from a family-owned farm or commercial fishing operation.

**3. Bankruptcy Crimes and Availability of Bankruptcy Papers to Law Enforcement Officials**

A person who knowingly and fraudulently conceals assets or makes a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury, either orally or in writing, in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to a fine, imprisonment, or both. All information supplied by a debtor in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the United States Trustee, the Office of the United States Attorney, and other components and employees of the Department of Justice.

**WARNING:** Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information regarding your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. Your bankruptcy case may be dismissed if this information is not filed with the court within the time deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the local rules of the court.

**Certificate of Attorney**

I hereby certify that I delivered to the debtor this notice required by § 342(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

<b>Bennie W. Fernandez</b>	X <b>/s/ Bennie W. Fernandez</b>	<b>March 8, 2007</b>
Printed Name of Attorney	Signature of Attorney	Date
Address:		
<b>108 W. Madison</b>		
<b>Oak Park, IL 60302</b>		
<b>(708) 386-1812</b>		

**Certificate of Debtor**

I (We), the debtor(s), affirm that I (we) have received and read this notice.

<b>Stephen Lawhorn</b>	X <b>/s/ Stephen Lawhorn</b>	<b>March 8, 2007</b>
Printed Name(s) of Debtor(s)	Signature of Debtor	Date
Case No. (if known) _____	X _____	
	Signature of Joint Debtor (if any)	Date

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Northern District of Illinois**

In re **Stephen Lawhorn**

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter

**13**

**VERIFICATION OF CREDITOR MATRIX**

Number of Creditors: **13**

The above-named Debtor(s) hereby verifies that the list of creditors is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge.

Date: **March 8, 2007**

**/s/ Stephen Lawhorn**

**Stephen Lawhorn**

Signature of Debtor



Armada Cor  
93 Eastmont Ave Suite #100  
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Citibank Usa  
Po Box 6003  
Hagerstown, MD 21747

Cross Country Bank  
800 Delaware Ave  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Household Bank  
90 Christiana Rd  
New Castle, DE 19720

Hsbc Nv  
Pob 19360  
Portland, OR 97280

Hsbc Nv  
Po Box 19360  
Portland, OR 97280

Hsbc/bstby  
Pob 15521  
Wilmington, DE 19805

Hsbc/rs  
Pob 15521  
Wilmington, DE 19805

Nco Financial Systems  
Pob 41466  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Peoples Choice Home Lo  
7515 Irvine Center Dr  
Irvine, CA 92618

Rogers & Hol  
Po Box 879  
Matteson, IL 60443

Shell Oil/citibank  
Po Box 6003  
Hagerstown, MD 21747

Torres Credit Srv  
27 Fairview St Ste 301  
Carlisle, PA 17015